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# REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

## Implementation of paragraphs 5 and 6 of resolution 48/32 on granting travel assistance to delegates of developing countries

## Report of the Secretary-General

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), when discussing at its twenty-third session the United Nations Decade of International Law, noted that the activities suggested by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989 relating to the teaching, study, dissemination, wider appreciation and promotion of international trade law would have their impact in all regions, but that they would be of greatest significance in developing countries. In the same spirit, it was suggested that an attempt should be made to finance the travel of experts from developing countries, and especially from States members of the Commission, to the sessions of the Commission and its working groups so that those States would be in a better position to contribute actively to the creation of international trade law.

2. Pursuant to a request expressed by the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of its resolution 45/42 of 28 November 1990, the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report (A/46/349), analysing possible ways by which assistance could be given to developing countries that were members of the Commission, in particular least developed countries, so that they might attend meetings of the Commission and its working groups, bearing in mind the arrangements that existed for United Nations bodies generally pursuant to section IX of resolution 43/217 of 21 December 1988.

3. The General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, adopted resolution 46/56 B of 9 December 1991, in which it requested "the Fifth Committee, in order to

ensure full participation by all Member States, to consider granting travel assistance, within existing resources, to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, as well as, on an exceptional basis, to other developing countries that are members of the Commission at their request, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to enable them to participate in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups;' and also recommended that ... "the Commission rationalize the organization of its work and consider, in particular, the holding of consecutive meetings of its working groups".

4. At its forty-seventh session the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/34 of 25 November 1992, in paragraphs 12 and 13 of which it requested "the Fifth Committee, in order to ensure full participation by all Member States, to continue to consider granting travel assistance, within existing resources, to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, as well as, on an exceptional basis, to other developing countries that are members of the Commission at their request, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to enable them to participate in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups;" and also recommended "that the Commission pay special attention to the rationalization of the organization of its work and consider all possibilities for rationalization, in particular the holding of consecutive meetings of its working groups".

5. And at its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/32 of 9 December 1993, paragraphs 5 and 6 of which read as follows:

> ["The General Assembly]
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> 5. Requests the Secretary-General, in order to ensure full participation by all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to establish a separate trust fund for the Commission to grant travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General;
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> 6. Decides, in order to ensure full participation by all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to continue its consideration in the competent Main Committee during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly on granting travel assistance, within existing resources, to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General".

6. By the same resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of paragraphs 5 and 6 of that resolution to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

## II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUST FUND

7. The process of setting up the Trust Fund pursuant to the request of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 5 of resolution 48/32 is now completed and a communication to announce the establishment of the Fund and to seek contributions is in the process of being sent to Member States.

## III. RATIONALIZATION OF ORGANIZATION OF WORK

8. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 46/56 and 47/34, had recommended that the Commission consider holding consecutive meetings of its working groups as a means of rationalizing its organization of work. The Commission had discussed the matter at its twenty-sixth session in 1993 and had concluded, that, because of the nature of the work assigned to each working group, delegations should normally be composed of different experts and therefore the holding of consecutive meetings would not result in savings on travel costs for delegations. 1/ At its twenty-seventh session, the Commission discussed the experience gained with regard to the holding of consecutive meetings of working groups. The following is the excerpt from the report on the Commission's twenty-seventh session 2/ on this point:

> "The Commission also took note of the outcome with regard to the holding of consecutive meetings of the Commission's working groups, which had been recommended by the General Assembly in paragraph 13 of its resolution 47/34 of 25 November 1992 and had been discussed by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session. It was observed that, as a result of scheduling by the Office of the Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat, two instances of consecutive meetings had been held, one involving a four-week period and the other a six-week period. It was observed that the experience at those sessions had brought out the disadvantages of holding consecutive meetings of different working groups to the work of the Commission, disadvantages that had been discussed at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission."

## IV. CONTINUED CONSIDERATION IN COMPETENT MAIN COMMITTEE

9. There was no further consideration of this matter during the forty-eighth session. The Secretary-General recommends that the matter be finalized at the current session.

### Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/48/17), paras. 339-341.

2/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/48/17), para. 254.

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